
The Sermon on the Mount

Introduction (Matthew 5-7)

Today's Quote:

"Studying the Beatitudes is not simply an exercise in self-criticism, in which we mentally beat ourselves up for not being what we ought to be. Studying the attributes of the Christian hero will lead us to praise over and over again as we see how these very virtues are on display in the person of Jesus."
Iain Duguid, *Hero of Heroes: Seeing Christ in the Beatitudes*

Upcoming Lessons:

Sunday, July 20th
Kingdom Influence
(Matthew 5:13-16)

Sunday, July 27th
Kingdom Righteousness
Before Man
(Matthew 5:17-48)

Sunday, August 3rd
Kingdom Righteousness
Before God
(Matthew 6:1-18)

Sunday, August 10th
Kingdom Security
(Matthew 6:19-34)

Sunday, August 17th
Kingdom Relationships
(Matthew 7:1-20)

Sunday, August 24th
Kingdom Commitment
Matthew 7:21-29

Sunday, August 31st
Conclusion

Contact:

Rev. Matthew D. Fray
mattfray@gmail.com
912.704.0519

III. "Crucial" Keys for Applying the Sermon on the Mount:

- AUDIENCE: It is for _____, citizens of the Kingdom of God.
- ATTITUDE: It compels us to be increasingly humble about our sin and dependent on Christ, the "founder and perfecter of our faith" (Heb. 12:1-2).
- ACTION: It calls us to be positively _____.
- ANTICIPATION: It allows us to feel the hopeful tension of living in an age in which the Kingdom of God which has "already" come into existence, but has "not yet" come into its fullness.

The Sermon on the Mount

Kingdom Character (Matthew 5:1-12)

**Reflection #1: What three personal goals consume my thought life?*

**Reflection #2: What kind of Christian do I think God blesses the most?*

I. The Beatitudes are character traits and promises for citizens of the Kingdom of God.

- These character traits are not (commonly) valued by non-Christians.
- All Christians are to have all of these character traits, and to have them _____.
- No Christian manifests these character traits naturally or perfectly.
- We should not approach The Beatitudes with an attitude of legalism (what must I do), or hedonism (what will I get), but with an attitude of _____ (who should I be).

II. The Beatitudes are best understood in three broad categories.

- Personal _____
 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
 - Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- Spiritual _____
 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- Relational _____
 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
 - Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
 - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
 - Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Reflection #3: What three Beatitudes most need to be increased in my life? What are two ways I can seek to increase them?*

Characteristic	Explanation
Poor in Spirit	<i>Humble awareness of our sin ("confession")</i>
Mourn	<i>Humble grief over our sin ("contrition")</i>
Meek	<i>Humble attitude in our relationship to God, people, and God's will</i>
Hunger and Thirst after Righteousness	<i>Longing to possess ("legally"), reflect ("morally"), and experience ("socially") God's perfect righteousness</i>
Merciful	<i>Integrity to show mercy to those in need (results from being poor in spirit)</i>
Pure in Heart	<i>Integrity to be inwardly holy (results from being one who mourns)</i>
Peacemaker	<i>Integrity to reconcile personal relationships (results from being meek)</i>
Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake	<i>Integrity to reflect and proclaim God's righteousness (results from hungering and thirsting after righteousness)</i>